

.. United Urban ..

DISTRICT OF WOLSTANTON.



Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

(W. E. L. Horner, M.D.)

FOR THE



YEAR 1904.



CHESTERTON :

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TO THE . . .

CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILLORS

OF THE

UNITED URBAN DISTRICT OF WOLSTANTON.

(Formed Mar. 31st 1905)

—o—

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my first Annual Report on the Sanitary Condition of the United Urban District of Wolstanton, with Vital Statistics for the year 1904.

The District is composed of the three parishes of Wolstanton, (including part of Basford, May Bank, and Longbridge Hayes), Silverdale, (including Knutton and Cross Heath) and Chesterton, (including Red Street).

Area. The area of the District is 5,483 acres, divided as follows:—

Wolstanton	..	2,362 acres
Silverdale	..	1,764 „
Chesterton	..	1,357 „

Population. The Population according to the census of 1891 was :—

		Wolstanton	..	6,473
		Silverdale	..	7,210
		Chesterton	..	6,314
				<hr/>
				19,997
				<hr/>
1901	„	Wolstanton	..	8,284
		Silverdale	..	7,820
		Chesterton	..	6,541
				<hr/>
				22,645
				<hr/>

The estimated population to the middle of 1904 was :

	Wolstanton	..	10,107
	Silverdale	..	8,005
	Chesterton	..	6,863
			<hr/>
			24,975
			<hr/>

The Statistics in this Report are based upon that estimate

Number of Houses. The number of houses in the District to the middle of 1904 was 5,490.

Number of persons per house .. 4.5

These are divided as follows :—

Wolstanton	2488,	No. of persons per house	4.06
Silverdale	1725,	„	4.6
Chesterton	1277,	„	5.3

210 new houses have been built during the year.

In order to make the statistics of Births and Deaths for the year 1904 more complete, I have, through the kindness of the Registrar, obtained the figures for the first 3 months of the year, relating to this District which was then comprised in the late Wolstanton Rural District.

Births.

The total number of Births registered in the District was 861,—455 males and 406 females, equal to an annual birth-rate of 34.4 per 1000 of the population.

These Births were distributed as follows:—

Wolstanton		Silverdale		Chesterton	
Male 170	Female 149	Male 139	Female 136	Male 146	Female 121
Total 319		275		267	
Annual Birth-rate 31.5		34.2		38.9	

The Birth-rate for England and Wales was 27.9 per 1,000 of the population.



Month				BIRTHS					DEATHS				
				Whole District	Rate per 1000	Wolstanton	Silverdale	Chesterton	Whole District	Rate per 1000	Wolstanton	Silverdale	Chesterton
January ..	..	..	}	294	35.3	92	95	107	38	18.4	16	9	13
February ..	..	..							31	14.8	6	10	15
March ..	..	..							31	14.8	11	12	8
April ..	..	..							27	12.9	3	16	8
May ..	..	..		91	43.2	45	26	20	30	14.4	12	6	12
June ..	..	..		87	41.7	27	31	29	42	19.6	8	4	30
July ..	..	..		69	33.1	32	27	10	50	24.02	13	6	31
August ..	..	..		67	32.1	18	25	24	36	16.8	15	9	12
September ..	..	..		67	32.1	30	23	14	28	12.9	8	10	10
October ..	..	..		65	31.2	30	16	19	26	12.4	11	9	6
November ..	..	..		63	30.2	24	17	22	29	13.9	21	2	6
December ..	..	..		58	27.8	15	22	39	39	18.2	15	13	11
Total ..				861	34.4	319	275	267	407	16.2	139	106	162



Deaths.

The total number of deaths registered in the District was 401. This gives a Death-rate of 16.05 per 1000.

Of these deaths, 13 were of non-residents at the Bradwell Sanatorium. There were also 19 deaths of residents, occurring in Institutions outside the District,—

North Staffordshire Infirmary	8
Chell Workhouse	11

The corrected number of deaths thus becomes 407 (males 212, females 195), giving an annual Death-rate of 16.29 per 1000 of the estimated population of the District.

The accompanying table shows the distribution of these deaths among the different parts of the District for each month.

Had it not been for the very fatal epidemic of measles at Chesterton in the Summer, which must be looked upon as an exceptional circumstance, the number of deaths would have been reduced to 367, giving an annual death-rate of 14.6 per 1000.

The deaths were distributed as follows:—

Wolstanton	..	139	Annual Death-rate	13.75
Silverdale	..	106	„	13.24
Chesterton	..	162	„	23.6

Even without the epidemic of Measles the Death-rate in Chesterton is 17.7, and thus much higher than the other parts of the District.

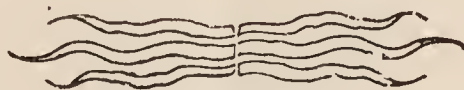
Causes of, and ages at Death during the year 1904.

CAUSES OF DEATH	All ages	Under 1 year	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and Upwards	Wolstanton	Silverdale	Chesterton	Deaths in Public Institutions
Measles	41	8	30	3	..	..	..	1	..	40	..
Scarlet Fever	6	..	2	4	..	..	..	5	..	1	5
Whooping-Cough	5	2	3	..	..	..	..	5	..	..	..
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup	6	..	4	2	..	..	..	3	2	1	4
Enteric Fever .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Diarrhœa	18	14	3	1	..	..	..	6	7	5	..
Enteritis	3	..	..	..	..	3	..	2	..	1	..
Erysipelas	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..
Other Septic Diseases	5	..	2	1	..	2	..	2	2	1	..
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	20	2	1	1	2	14	..	8	5	7	..
Other Tubercular Diseases	12	4	3	3	1	1	..	5	2	5	..
Cancer	12	..	..	..	..	9	3	2	4	6	..
Bronchitis	42	10	7	..	..	14	11	18	6	18	..
Pneumonia	41	11	18	4	1	6	1	15	17	9	..
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs	4	..	..	..	..	1	3	..	1	3	..
Alcoholism	4	..	..	..	..	2	2	3	1	..	..
Venereal Diseases	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..
Premature Birth	14	14	..	..	..	..	..	5	3	6	..
Diseases and Accidents of Parturition	3	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	3	..
Heart Diseases	27	..	..	..	1	22	4	6	11	10	..
Accidents	10	..	2	2	..	5	1	1	4	5	..
Suicides	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..
All other causes	130	42	9	5	6	28	40	49	41	40	..
All causes	407	109	84	26	11	91	66	139	106	162	15

Deaths not certified by a Medical Practitioner.

INQUESTS WERE HELD DURING THE YEAR ON EIGHTEEN PERSONS
AND THE FOLLOWING VERDICTS WERE GIVEN:—

	Natural Causes	Accidents	Suicides
WOLSTANTON	Consumption Pneumonia Scarlet Fever	Drowning	
SILVERDALE	Congestion of Lungs Heart Failure Heart Failure Convulsions Heart Failure	Scalds Fall down stairs Concussion of Brain from fall on slide	
CHESTERTON	Fatty Degeneration of Heart	Fall of roof of Pit Fall of roof of Stone Pit Killed by machinery Fall from chair causing congestion of Lungs	Strangulation



Besides the above there were 7 uncertified deaths in which no inquests were held, the causes and ages being as follows:—

Premature Birth	18 hours.
„ „	20 hours.
Found dead in bed	5 mos.
Apoplexy ..	37 years.
Heart disease	45 years.
Heart failure	61 years.
Convulsions	2 mos.

The total number of uncertified deaths was therefore 25 out of the 407 in the District equal to 6.1 per cent.

Inquests 4.4, uncertified deaths 1.6 per cent.

For all England and Wales the figures for 1904 are:—
Inquests 6.5, Uncertified deaths 1.6 per cent.

Infant Mortality.

The deaths under 1 year in 1904 were 109, equal to a mortality of 126 per 1000 registered births.

These were distributed as follows:—

		Rate per 1000.
Wolstanton ..	33	103
Silverdale ..	29	105
Chesterton ..	47	138

For all England and Wales in 1904 the rate of mortality among infants under 1 year of age to 1000 registered births was 146.

The causes of death are shown on the accompanying table (page 8).

Zymotic Death-rate.

THERE WERE SEVENTY-SIX DEATHS FROM THE SEVEN PRINCIPAL
EPIDEMIC DISEASES.

			Wolstanton	Silverdale	Chesterton	TOTAL	Rate per 1000
Small Pox	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles ..	..	..	1	..	40	41	1.64
Scarlet Fever	..	..	5	..	1	6	0.24
Diphtheria	..	..	3	2	1	6	0.24
Whooping Cough	..	..	5	..	..	5	0.20
Enteric Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diarrhoea	..	..	6	7	5	18	0.72
Total	..	..	20	9	47	76	3.04

Thus over half of the deaths from Epidemic Diseases were due to the Epidemic of Measles at Chesterton.



Comparative Statistics of Births and Deaths

12]

	Annual Rate per 1000 Living										Deaths under 1 year to 1000 Births
	Births	Deaths	Principal Epidemic Diseases	Small- Pox	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Diph- theria	Whoop- ing Cough	Enteric Fever	Diarr- hoea	
England & Wales ..	27.9	16.2	1.94	0.01	0.36	0.11	0.17	0.34	0.09	0.86	146
76 Great Towns ..	29.1	17.2	2.49	0.01	0.47	0.12	0.19	0.40	0.10	1.20	160
142 Smaller Towns ..	27.5	15.6	2.02	0.03	0.36	0.13	0.16	0.35	0.10	0.89	154
England & Wales less the 218 Towns..	26.8	15.3	1.28	0.01	0.23	0.09	0.14	0.27	0.08	0.46	125
Wolstanton District ..	34.4	16.2	3.04	0	1.64	0.24	0.24	0.20	0	0.72	126

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFICATION ACT, 1889.

168 cases have been notified during the year from May to December, including the following:—

Small-pox	1
Diphtheria	37
Scarlet Fever	105
Erysipelas	15
Enteric Fever	8
Puerperal Fever	2

Measures adopted in dealing with these cases.—In all cases the house is visited within a few hours of receipt of notification. Enquiries are made and noted on printed forms and instructions as to isolation given. Printed sheets with directions as to precautions to be taken to prevent infection are left at the house together with a supply of Disinfectant which is renewed from time to time as occasion may require.

Where isolation is impracticable or imperfect and especially where there are other children in the house removal to the Sanatorium is urged. Under existing circumstances however, it has so frequently happened that there is no room at the Sanatorium, that this measure, the most effectual, of all, for preventing the spread of Disease, when taken at the commencement, has not been able to be utilized as it otherwise would have been.

Post-cards are regularly sent to schools notifying the presence of any infectious disease in houses, and requesting the exclusion of all children from such houses for varying periods according to the disease.

Every infected house is disinfected, either on removal of the case, or at the expiration of the period of infection as certified by the Medical Practitioner in charge.

Arrangements have been made with Burslem, by which bedding, articles of clothing, &c. can be disinfected in their Steam Disinfector.

The Sanitary condition of the premises is carefully inquired into and inspected, and any defects found remedied.

The Bradwell Sanatorium.

The Bradwell Sanatorium for Infectious Diseases is at present totally inadequate to supply the needs of the District. Cases are received from Burslem, Tunstall, Kids Grove, and a part of Smallthorne, as well as from the Wolstanton District which places have a combined population of about 80,000 people.

For this population there are at present:—

- 16 Scarlet Fever beds.
- 9 Diphtheria beds.
- 8 Typhoid beds.

2 or 3 cots have been added for children with Scarlet Fever, but this is only a very slight relief.

Even in a normal year the number of beds is not nearly enough for the needs of the District, but in a year such as the past when the number of cases of Infectious Diseases has been considerably above the average, it is obvious that the means at the disposal of the Sanitary Authorities for preventing the spread of Disease are enormously curtailed.

Burslem is at present building an Infectious Hospital which, it is hoped, will be opened during the coming year. This will relieve the pressure to a certain extent, but there will still be urgent need for enlargement.

The Sanitary arrangements at present are also very deficient. There are no Water-closets and the bath accommodation is very bad.

A Steam Disinfector is urgently required, and the laundry is insufficient.



Cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the Year 1904.

May to December.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	Cases notified in whole District.						Total Cases notified in each locality.			No. of Cases removed to Hospital from each locality.		
	At all ages	At Ages—Years					Wolstanton	Silverdale	Chesterton	Wolstanton	Silverdale	Chesterton †
		Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65						
Small-pox ..	1	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	1*	..	..
Diphtheria ..	37	1	14	14	5	3	20	14	3	4	6	1
Erysipelas ..	15	..	1	1	..	11	5	5	5	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever ..	105	..	34	66	1	4	68	20	17	35	1	5
Enteric Fever..	8	..	..	4	1	3	1	6	1	..	3	..
Puerperal Fever ..	2	..	..	..	2	..	1	1	..	..	..	..
Total ..	168	1	49	85	7	24	95	46	26	40	10	6

* Bagnall Small-pox Hospital. † Bradwell Sanatorium.

Small-pox,

Only 1 case of Small-pox has been certified during the year. This occurred during August at Wolstanton in a man 28 years of age, and was traceable to contact with a case of Small-Pox at Burslem. The patient had been satisfactorily vaccinated in infancy, and consequently the disease was of a very mild type, being what is known as "modified Small-pox." He was at once removed to the Bagnall Small-Pox Hospital, the house was thoroughly disinfected, the other inmates were re-vaccinated and kept under observation for a fortnight, but not confined to the house.

By these measures the disease has been effectually checked from spreading.

This case clearly shows the importance of re-vaccination, as although one vaccination in infancy modified the attack to such an extent that at no time during his illness did the patient feel ill, yet it was not sufficient to prevent this attack, the effect having partly worn off. Had this patient been re-vaccinated he would not have contracted this attack.

Enteric or Typhoid Fever.

8 Cases have been notified with no deaths. 6 of these occurred in Silverdale, 1 in Wolstanton, and 1 in Chesterton.

6 deaths occurred at the Bradwell Sanatorium among cases brought in from outside the District.

3 cases were removed to the Bradwell Sanatorium.

Scarlet Fever,

Scarlet Fever has been very prevalent in the District during the latter half of the year, especially in Wolstanton.

105 cases have been notified since the beginning of May. The following table shows the distribution in the District for each month.—

			Wolstanton	Silverdale	Chesterton	TOTAL
May	..	..	2	8	..	10
June	..	..	5	..	..	5
July	..	..	7	4	1	12
August	..	..	11	1	..	12
September	.	..	7	3	3	13
October	..	..	23	2	2	27
November	..	..	5	1	6	12
December	..	..	8	1	5	14
			68	20	17	105

Amongst these cases there were 5 deaths, giving a case mortality of 4.7 per 100 cases.

Death rate per 1000 living 0.24.

37 cases—35 per cent were removed to the Bradwell Sanatorium.

82 houses were infected.

The great majority of cases have been very mild in character. In two cases however the disease was so severe that death occurred before the characteristic rash had time to develop.

In some cases the initial symptoms were so slight that the disease escaped recognition by the parents, and was only discovered in the later stage of peeling. I could not however satisfy myself that in any case there had been culpable neglect.

Diphtheria.

37 Cases of Diphtheria have been notified since the beginning of May. The following table gives the part of the District and the months in which they occurred.—

			Wolstanton	Silverdale	Chesterton	TOTAL
May	..	..	1	..	..	1
June	..	..	2	3	..	5
July	..	..	8	5	2	15
August	..	..	5	2	..	7
September	..	..	1	3	..	4
October	..	..	..	..	1	1
November	..	..	2	1	..	3
December	..	..	1	..	..	1
			20	14	3	37

Amongst these cases 4 deaths occurred, giving a mortality of 10.8 per 100 cases.

2 deaths occurred during the early part of the year in cases not included in the above list. This gives a total of 6 deaths, equal to an annual death-rate of 0.24 per 1000.

The death-rate for England and Wales from Diphtheria for 1904 is 0.17.

4 deaths occurred at the Bradwell Sanatorium among cases from outside the District.

11 cases—29 per cent were removed to the Bradwell Sanatorium. There were no deaths among these cases.

32 houses were infected.

In addition to other measures which are followed out with all infectious cases, Antitoxin has been supplied by the Council free of charge to Medical men for use in necessitous cases.

Measles.

Measles have been very prevalent during the year in this district. 41 deaths have occurred from this cause, 40 of which were in Chesterton.

This is equal to a death-rate of 1.6 per 1000 for the whole district and 5.8 per 1000 for Chesterton.

Measles not being a notifiable disease it is impossible to say how many cases occurred, but a large majority of the infants of Chesterton were affected, and the numbers must have been at least 4 or 5 hundred.

The epidemic started at the beginning of June. A few cases had previously occurred at Cross Heath, from which source the epidemic probably was introduced into Chesterton, the main road connecting these two places.

Once established, it spread with great rapidity over the whole town, towards the end of the outbreak reaching Red Street which however was not so severely affected as the main part of the town.

Chesterton seems to have been remarkably free from Measles for many years, and this to some extent may account for the severity of the outbreak. The last epidemic of Measles in Chesterton as far as I can ascertain, was in January, 1896, when the Schools were closed for a fortnight, but it does not seem to have been of a very serious character.

As is usual, the majority of deaths occurred from lung complications, (Bronchitis and Pneumonia), and in children under 2 years of age.

The following table shows the ages at death.—

Under 1 yr.	1-2 yrs.	3 yrs.	4 yrs.	5 yrs.	6 yrs.	7 yrs.	12 yrs.
8	18	5	5	..	2	1	1

The epidemic lasted from the beginning of June till about the end of the first week in August, the last death being recorded on August 4th.

Printed sheets giving directions for preventing the spread of measles, and setting forth the danger of treating it too lightly, were distributed from house to house during the epidemic.

Towards the end of November an epidemic of Measles started amongst the infants attending the new Infant Schools at May Bank, Wolstanton. Although a very large number of the children were attacked, only one death has been recorded from Measles complicated with Pneumonia, in a child under 2 years of age.

Closure of Schools.—Chesterton. The Infant Department of the National Schools was closed on June 13th, and the Infant Department of the Council Schools was closed on June 15th, both for a month.

On July 15th all the Schools in all departments, together with the Red Street Schools, were closed until after the summer holidays.

Wolstanton. On Monday, November 28th, the Infant Schools at May Bank, Wolstanton, were closed for a month.

All the Infant Schools that have been closed have been disinfected.

Whooping Cough.

Whooping Cough has been prevalent in the District during the latter part of the year, and 5 deaths have occurred from this cause, 1 in September, 2 in November, and 2 in December.

All these deaths occurred in Wolstanton.

Constitutional Diseases.

There were 44 deaths under this head, viz:—

Phthisis	20
Other Tubercular Diseases	12
Cancer	12

Phthisis.

Death-rate from Phthisis 0.8 per 1000.

The deaths were distributed fairly evenly over the various parts of the District. Thus there were in

Wolstanton ..	8
Silverdale ..	5
Chesterton ..	7

Two houses were disinfected after fatal cases of Phthisis had occurred. This is a measure of great importance which I hope will become more general in future.



SANITARY WORK.

The following figures relate to work done since the beginning of June, when the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. W. Simcock, was appointed.

The District has been thoroughly and systematically inspected, and altogether 11,470 house to house visits have been made.

In addition, special visits to Cowsheds, Slaughter-houses, etc., have been made as enumerated below.

243 nuisances and defects have been discovered, most of which have been remedied.

- 13 No drains to property,
- 38 No disconnection,
- 2 Drains inside houses
- 5 Defective slopstones,
- 4 Defective yards,
- 4 Overcrowding
- 1 House unfit for habitation,
- 111 Defective Ashpits and Privies,
- 4 Nuisance from pigs,
- 2 Accumulations of Manure,
- 44 Choked and defective drains,
- 5 Defective traps,
- 5 Dirty Cowsheds,
- 2 Defects in Workshops and Factories,
- 3 Nuisances in Slaughter-houses.

118 Houses and 2 Schools have been disinfected during the year.

Slaughter-houses.

There are 18 Slaughter-houses and 1 Knacker's Yard in the District, distributed as follows :—

Wolstanton	..	7
Silverdale	..	6
Chesterton	..	6

110 visits have been paid. No defects were found, but in three cases nuisances arose from accumulation of refuse and manure which have since been remedied.

2 new licenses have been granted during the year, 1 in Chesterton and 1 in Wolstanton.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.

There are 62 Cow-keepers on the Register in the District 40 of which have Dairies, and 5 Milk-sellers who do not keep Cows.

25	of them are in	Wolstanton,
22	„ „	Silverdale,
20	„ „	Chesterton.

132 visits have been made. The Dairies were all found to be clean and satisfactory.

The majority of the Cowsheds were also fairly satisfactory but 5 were in a very dirty state. Notices to limewash were given in each case, and have all since been complied with.

In a few cases light and ventilation were found to be bad.

Factory & Workshops Act, 1901.

The total number of Factories and Workshops at present on the Register is 68, These include 3 Factories 49 Workshops and 16 Homeworkers' Premises.

The Factories are:—

- 1 Laundry.
- 1 Earthenware Works.
- 1 Cotton Factory.

The Workshops and Homeworkers' premises include:—

- 18 Bakehouses.
- 13 Boot and Shoe Repairers.
- 12 Dressmakers.
- 11 Builders and Joiners.
- 8 Blacksmiths.
- 3 Saddlers.

95 Visits of inspection have been made.

3 notices of occupation of Workshops have been received from H. M. Inspector of Factories during the year.

1 Notice of insufficient Privy accommodation in a factory has been received from H. M. Inspector during the year. This has been remedied by the addition of a new earthenware pan.

1 Defect in a Workshop was discovered: two cesspool closets being under the workshop. This has been remedied by two new water closets being erected at a suitable distance and the cesspools being removed.

Water Supply.

The District is supplied with Water by the Staffordshire Potteries Water Works Company. The quality is good and the supply plentiful.

A few of the outlying houses are supplied with wells and 4 complaints have been received of no water supply at all.

Scavenging.

For Scavenging purposes the District is divided into 5 sections, viz :—Wolstanton, Longbridge-Hayes, Silverdale, Knutton, and Chesterton. Each section is let out by contract, which must be renewed at the end of a year, to farmers and others in the District.

During the past year, while the scavenging of Wolstanton and Chesterton has been fairly satisfactory, that of the other 3 sections has left much to be desired and numerous complaints have been received.

The hours for removal of Night-soil are from 6 p.m. to 9 a.m. Several complaints have been received of carts being out after 9 a.m.

Lime is supplied to the Contractors for regular use after emptying ash-pits and privies.

The number of loads of Nightsoil and Ashes removed from the various parts of the District was as follows, (June to December) :—

Silverdale	..	2192
Knutton	..	637
Chesterton	..	2378
Wolstanton	..	2684
Longbridge Hayes		294

Sewage.

At present the Sewage Disposal of the District is carried out by broad irrigation at four centres as follows:—

1.—The Holditch Farm is situated close to Chesterton almost in the middle of the District. The Sewage from Wolstanton, May Bank, and Chesterton, gravitates to this Farm, while that from Longbridge Hayes and Porthill flows to a station at Middleport, is pumped from thence to New Street, Wolstanton, and gravitates to the Farm.

2.—The Mill Bank Farm is situated near Silverdale. The Sewage from Silverdale and Knutton gravitates to this Farm.

3.—From Basford the Sewage gravitates to a point below the Highfield Tileries, and is there dealt with by broad irrigation.

4.—The Cross Heath Sewage gravitates to a Farm in the neighbourhood, and is there dealt with by broad irrigation.

The Holditch Farm is not quite satisfactory owing to the incomplete manner in which the Sewage is distributed on the land. This, and a scheme for more efficiently dealing with the Basford Sewage, which is also unsatisfactory, are at present under the consideration of the Sanitary Committee.

After an enquiry by the Local Government Board, permission was given (October 8th) for several houses in Keele Parish, adjoining Silverdale, to be connected with the Silverdale sewers. Previously to this the sewage from these houses had been running into Silverdale Parish, some of it along the roadside, by the side of the tram lines, and the rest into a brook running through the centre of the town.

All these houses with the exception of those belonging to the Keele Estate have now been connected.

5 cesspool closets have been converted into Water Closets during the year.

4 Ventilating Shafts have been erected in the District from the man-holes, and carried up the adjoining property, the manholes being covered up.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

W. E. L. HORNER, M.D.

February 27th, 1905.

